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**From:** Dieu, Martin [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B0808A1437774901BD28FA57795126A3-MDIEU]  
**Sent:** 3/8/2022 9:07:40 PM  
**To:** Besch, Brianna [besch.brianna@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Finman, Hodayah [Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov]; Huber, Patrick [Huber.Patrick@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: UNEA and Ukraine

Thank you!

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**From:** Besch, Brianna <besch.brianna@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 2:44 PM  
**To:** Dieu, Martin <Dieu.Martin@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Finman, Hodayah <Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov>; Huber, Patrick <Huber.Patrick@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: UNEA and Ukraine

Hi Martin,

Hodayah asked that I forward this summary of the impacts of the war in Ukraine impacted UNEA 5.2, for your awareness/records.

Best,

Brianna Besch (she/her)  
Office of International Affairs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
202-564-4146  
[besch.brianna@epa.gov](mailto:besch.brianna@epa.gov)

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**From:** Besch, Brianna  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:45 PM  
**To:** Finman, Hodayah <Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov>; Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Huber, Patrick <Huber.Patrick@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Sims, JaniceHQ <Sims.JaniceHQ@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** UNEA and Ukraine

Hi Hodayah,

As requested, here is a short summary of the way the situation unfolding in Ukraine impacted UNEA 5.2.

On Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Embassy of Ukraine in Kenya issued the attached Note Verbale asking the UNEP Secretariate and other member states to stop work on discussions on the draft resolution "Compliance with the principle of equitable geographic distribution in the composition of the secretariate of UNEP" co-sponsored by the Russian Federation. Discussions on the resolution were postponed. On Friday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> during the OECPR closing plenary, Ukraine intervened on that resolution as well as the occupation of a nuclear power plant (53:15), followed by a Russian Federation intervention stressing that UNEP shouldn't discuss bilateral issues and making comments the resolution and the history Ukrainian-Russian conflict (55:05). This was followed by interventions of the EU, the US made by the head of delegation, Monica Medina (1:02:15), the UK, Canada, Japan and New Zealand sharing concerns on the resolution and condemning the attack by Russia on Ukraine. Russia also executed is right of reply to respond to the comments and removed Russian co-sponsorship for the resolution. Over the weekend, all co-sponsors withdrew from the resolution and it moved forward as a chair's text and was ultimately adopted. The US del

continued to engage Russia in the context of multilateral negotiations but they did not intervene much in negotiations from Thursday forward, and we did not hold any bilateral meetings or discussions to my knowledge.

The war in Ukraine was also brought up at the opening plenary of UNEA on Monday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Monica Medina addressed the war in the US National Statement to UNEA, condemning Russia's actions and asking the international community to stand with Ukraine. Ukraine made a strong statement at the UNEA closing plenary, which received a standing ovation by many delegates. During the Russian Federation's right of reply intervention many delegates walked out of plenary, including myself and the State Department layer who were the only US delegates there (with agreement from the State Department DAS via text).

Best,

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